

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. In response, enclosed is sketch A on which the numeral 16 has been changed to 14 in Fig. 3.

The Examiner has objected to some informalities in the claims. The claims have been corrected to eliminate these informalities.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-12, 14-16 and 18-21 as being anticipated by, or obvious over the prior art, including Sherrill, Lindgren, Dokken and Fisher. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Briefly, the present invention pertains to a novel dental chew roll that consists of a piece of animal hide arranged in a spiral about a longitudinal axis to form the roll. The hide piece has two opposed ends that are cut into strips shaped and sized to form dental floss. The hide is preferably infused with a flavoring and/or coloring agent to make it more attractive to pets. In addition the hide piece may also be formed with a plurality of cuts (preferably crescent shaped). The cuts promote dental health because they massage the gums as the pet chews the roll. Importantly, the roll is made by taking a clean animal hide, infusing it with the flavor and/or color, cutting into several hide pieces, rolling the hide pieces and drying them.

As discussed in the specification, the present invention has several

characteristics that make it advantageous over the prior art. For example, in the prior art, an animal hide was cleaned, cut, rolled and dried, and then a flavoring and coloring agents were added. The resulting rolls then were dried a second time.

Sherrill teaches a different process and product. This product consists of two sheets that are rolled together: a sheet of animal hide and a sheet of beef jerky. However, Sherrill does not teach infusing the animal hide with a food flavor or color. In fact, Sherrill teaches away from this step because it claims that food flavor and color are not desirable because they cause the final product to stain the flooring and smell bad (see col 1., lines 60-65).

The Examiner takes the position that claims 1 and 5 are anticipated by Sherrill because the latter teaches flavoring and coloring the hide during the cleaning and deliming of the hide. The Applicants disagree. Cleaning and deliming a hide do not impart it with a taste or an appearance that renders the roll more attractive to animals, as recited in claim 1, and therefore these claims are not anticipated.

Claims 6-10, 14, 15 stand rejected as being obvious over Sherrill in view of Dokken. As discussed above, Sherrill does not disclose infusing a cleaned hide with flavor and/or color, and then processing the flavor- or color-infused hide to make rolls. Instead, Sherrill processes a clean sheet of hide by adding to it a sheet of jerky. Dokken discloses a duck-shaped object with legs 16, used as a training device. Sherrill pertains to a chew roll. There is nothing in Dokken that has anything that is of any relevance to chew rolls with strips forming dental floss as described in the claims.

Furthermore, there is nothing in either reference that teaches cutting a hide to form strips or teaching how to make dental floss from a hide.

Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected on the same grounds as the previous group of claims and in addition, in view of Lindgren. Lindgren teaches a chew toy with a cut. It is respectfully submitted that Lindgren fails to disclose the subject matter missing from Sherrill or Dokken and accordingly this rejection is equally deficient.

Claims 16, 18, 19, 20 and 21 stand rejected as being anticipated by Fisher. The Applicants respectfully disagree. Fisher discloses a roll made of hair-covered raw hide. The reference does not disclose integral strips formed on the body. There is nothing to suggest to a person skilled in the art that the body and strips can be sized and shaped to improve dental health, or that the strips form dental floss. Accordingly, these claims are not anticipated by, or obvious over the cited reference.

The references (WO 01/33972 and CA 2,253,994) requested by the Examiner are enclosed.

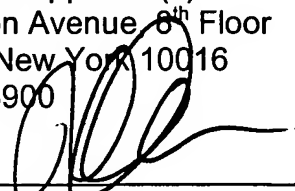
It is respectfully submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance.

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